

Tuesday, 28 February 17

To Whom It May Concern

The Bendigo Business Council commends the Australian Government on the Social Impact Investing Discussion Paper, dated January 2017 ("Paper").

Our Smarter Bendigo Alliance ("Alliance") has received extremely positive feedback from the Australian and Victorian Governments on our proposed City Deal for Bendigo ("City Deal").

Our City Deal is highly aligned to the following pillars of the Paper:

- Role of Australian Government in terms of social impact (section 3)
- Principles including value for money, robust outcomes-based measurement and evaluation, fair sharing of risk and return and delivering social outcomes (section 4)
- Reducing regulatory barriers (section 5).

Indeed, a sophisticated City Deal offers the ideal opportunity to showcase the impact investing role of the Australian Government alongside other market participants, in terms of enabling private sector investment and co-funding investments which generate savings or avoid future costs.

In particular, this opportunity arises where a City Deal involves a place-based Alliance of public, private and community partners -- including nationally-significant finance, health, education and resource organisations -- all aligned to the same vision, purpose and values of self-determination and inclusive growth.

Yours sincerely,



Leah Sertori
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